

Preliminary to examination of this application, please amend claims 1, 8, 14 and

18 as follows:

Sub
DI 1.

(Twice Amended) A backrest for attachment to a chair having a seat, the backrest having a front and a back and comprising:

- (a) a frame having a top and a bottom and comprising an outer peripheral portion which surrounds a central portion;
- (b) a support shell mounted on the frame; and,
- (c) a plurality of flexible, independently moveable, vertically extending members mounted to said support shell and positioned to engage at least a portion of a back of a person when the person is seated in the chair, whereby the support shell and the vertically extending members are formed integrally, the vertically extending members are positioned in the central portion when the backrest is assembled and the vertically extending members engage the frame only at the top and the bottom whereby the vertically extending members support the back of the person without engaging any structural member positioned behind the vertically extending members.

C1

Sub
DI 8.

(Amended) The backrest of claim 1 wherein the support shell and the frame each have an outer peripheral portion and a central opening and the vertically extending members are positioned in the central openings.

C2

C3
Sub 8
D17
14. (Amended) A backrest for attachment to a chair having a seat, the backrest comprising:

- (a) a support structure having a top and a bottom;
- (b) a plurality of vertically extending members having a top portion and a bottom portion, said vertically extending members being laterally spaced apart for at least a portion of their height to permit independent movement of adjacent vertically extending members, wherein each of the vertically extending members supports a longitudinal section of at least the lumbar region of a person seated on the chair without engaging a supplemental support member, the vertically extending members are adjustable by raising or lowering one of the top portion or the bottom portion.

C4
Sub 10
D17
18. The backrest of claim 14 wherein one of the top portion or the bottom portion is attached directly to the support structure and the other of the top portion or the bottom portion is engageable at a plurality of vertically spaced apart engagement members provided on the support structure.

Please cancel claims 5-6, 11-13 and 17 without prejudice and add the following new claim 23:

C5
Sub 14
D17
23. (New) The backrest of claim 14 wherein the support structure and the vertically extending members are formed integrally.